

Report on the Stipulations for Whittier College June 2011

Overview

This agenda item presents a report on the responses from Whittier College to the stipulation noted in their March 2010 Site Visit. The item includes a recommendation for a change in Whittier College's accreditation status.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the COA change the accreditation decision for Whittier College from *Accreditation with Stipulations* to *Accreditation*.

Background

In March 2010, a site visit team recommended that the COA grant *Accreditation with Stipulations* to Whittier College.

The findings that led to the stipulation were identified in the report as follows:

Whittier College is in the beginning stages of developing a systematic approach to the assessment and evaluation of its programs and unit. While data are collected by the program, these data are primarily used in the areas of evaluating individual candidate qualifications and competence and in evaluating the performance of district employed supervisors and college supervisors. The majority of these data are derived from surveys or field-based observations. For example, the program uses an assessment form based on the TPEs in the student teaching experience....While these initial steps are useful, the department has yet to fully develop a systematic program for assessing program effectiveness. In particular, the department has not yet effectively reached out to stakeholders to get their systematic feedback on the program, and the department is strongly encouraged to develop an advisory board including local P-12 stakeholders. The advisory board and the use of existing and new data sources needs to become a part of the development of program change.

Based upon the findings, one stipulation was noted:

- That the institution provide Commission staff with an updated plan for a program that includes an evaluation system and provides evidence that the evaluation system has been implemented.

Institutional Response

Whittier College provided the following documents to support the recommendation:

1. Whittier College Program Evaluation Plan Summary
2. Program Evaluation 2010-2011 Timeline

3. Meeting Notice, List of Participants, Agenda for September 18, 2010 Faculty/Faculty Adjunct Inservice meeting
4. Meeting Notice, List of Participants, Agenda for October 21, 2010 Education Advisory Board
5. Results of the Surveys of First-Year Graduates and Employers of First-Year Graduates
6. Backing Papers: examples of program revisions

The evidence submitted by Whittier College includes the following description of the evaluation system in operation during the 2010-11 year and the on-going plan:

“At the department’s yearly retreat (June or early July) and at bi-monthly department meetings during the academic year, some form of program assessment data is discussed. In addition, at least one form of program assessment data is presented and discussed at the bi-annual Faculty/Faculty Adjunct inservice. These meetings are held at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. In addition, similar presentations are a component of bi-annual Education Advisory Board meetings held on the third Thursday in October and March. The agenda for the September 19, 2010 inservice meeting of *faculty/faculty adjuncts* included a review of the CTC Accreditation site visit report, the Biennial Report, and the surveys of first-year teachers and their site administrators. Likewise, the agenda for the October 21, 2010 **Education Advisory Board** included a discussion of the findings of Accreditation team, and the Biennial Report. Our adjunct faculty is recruited from exemplary teachers and administrators in our partnering school districts as are most of the members of our Education Advisory Board. The department faculty values the input these stakeholders offer in response to the program assessments.

An example of discussions from these stakeholder meetings included several comments by first year teachers related to an expressed need for more preparation in classroom management/discipline in the teacher preparation program. (See backing paper #1 for a summary of the discussion.) A second topic that came from the Education Advisory Board dealt with professional behaviors related to the use of technology (texting, cell phones use, etc. at the school site). The department will revise its Professional Standards document and create a new implementation plan for developing and monitoring professional behaviors and present it at a future meeting of the Education Advisory Board....

...In summary, the Whittier College Teacher Preparation program views program evaluation as a cyclic process. At the data collection point for each instrument, the department chair or his/her designate presents the data analysis for discussion at a regularly scheduled (bi-monthly) department meeting. Relevant data is then shared with district partners who are represented both at the Faculty/Faculty Adjunct inservice meetings held in September and January and at the Education Advisory Board scheduled for October and March. These stakeholders add perspectives from the field to the discussion of a particular topic or issue. Department faculty members then propose any needed changes to the curriculum,

policy, etc. In a small department, most program revisions can be implemented in a short –time frame and the cycle continues.”

Although including the Education Advisory Board in the evaluation and improvement plan was not a part of the COA’s stipulation, Whittier College has provided evidence that the advisory board is operational and integrated into the analysis, discussion and planning of modifications for the teacher preparation programs.

Staff Finding

After review of the documentation submitted by Whittier College and email follow-up, staff has concluded that Whittier College has addressed Common 2 which was determined to be “Met with Concerns” during the 2010 accreditation site visit and provided evidence that it has responded to the stipulation. Therefore, staff recommends that the COA take action to change the accreditation decision for Whittier College from *Accreditation with Stipulations* to *Accreditation*.